

Message Text

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21

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TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, AS

SUBJECT: GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT BY AUSTRALIAN MINISTER
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILLEESSEE

1. SUMMARY: AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
WILLEESSEE DEVOTED SPECIAL ATTENTION TO DISARMAMENT,
CALLING FOR A GREATER SENSE OF URGENCY AND NOTING THAT THE
FINAL DECLARATION OF THE NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE "POINTS THE
WAY AHEAD." HE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE DIVERSION OF
FISSIONABLE MATERIALS AND NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FROM PEACE-
FUL TO MILITARY PURPOSES. HE URGED GREATER UN ATTENTION
TO THE PROBLEMS OF SMALL ISLANDS AND ISLAND GROUPS,
AND ALSO CALLED FOR A "UNIVERSAL CONVENTION" ON THE
LAW OF THE SEA. HE ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO A WIDE RANGE OF
ISSUES, AND IN THIS CONTEXT NOTED THAT BOTH KOREAN GOVERN-
MENTS WERE EQUALLY SOVEREIGN AND SHOULD RESPECT EACH OTHERS
RIGHTS. HE CONCLUDED BY PRAISING THE CHARTER AND URGING
MEMBER STATES TO LIVE UP TO ITS PRINCIPLES. END SUMMARY.

2. AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SENATOR
DONALD WILLEESSEE URGED THE RECAPTURE OF THE ENTHUSIASM OF
THOSE WHO DRAFTED THE CHARTER. HE NOTED THAT WE HAVE YET
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TO MAKE FULL USE OF ARTICLE I. AND "ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL

COOPERATION IN SOLVING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS," BUT PRAISED THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION AS AN EXCELLENT NEW START.

3. WILLESEE DEVOTED SPECIAL ATTENTION TO DISARMAMENT, NOTING THAT GREAT INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS ARE REQUIRED AND THAT TOO OFTEN MUTUAL TRUST IS LACKING. HE CALLED FOR REGAINING THE SENSE OF URGENCY OF 1968 WHICH LED TO THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, WARNING AGAINST ITS EROSION. HE DECLARED THAT THE FINAL DECLARATION OF THE NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE "POINTS THE WAY AHEAD." HE WARNED OF THE DANGER OF DIVERSION OF FISSIONABLE MATERIALS TO WEAPONS MANUFACTURE, AND CALLED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STRONGER SAFEGUARDS IN THIS AREA. HE WISHED THAT SPECIAL ATTENTION BE PAID TO THE PROBLEMS PRESENTED BY PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, NOTING THAT TECHNOLOGY CAN BE DIVERTED FROM PEACEFUL TO MILITARY PURPOSES. CITING THE NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE, WILLESEE URGED THAT NUCLEAR POWERS INCREASE EFFORTS TO MEET CONCERNS OF NON-NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES. HE DESCRIBED NUCLEAR STOCKPILES AS "A THREAT TO ALL MANKING," AND NOTED THAT MORE POWERFUL WEAPONS AND GREATER PROLIFERATION ARE FACTORS MAKING FOR INSECURITY. HE STATED THAT "THE UN SHOULD CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE NPT AS THE MOST APPROPRIATE MEANS OF ACHIEVING NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL"

4. IN ADDRESSING HIMSELF TO DECOLONIZATION, WILLESEE SPOKE WITH PRIDE OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT OTHER FORMER COLONIES WERE NOW INDEPENDENT UN MEMBERS. HE NOTED CONCERN ABOUT RHODESIA AND STRONGLY SUPPORTED NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE. HE CALLED FOR GREATER UN ATTENTION TO COLONIAL PROBLEMS OUTSIDE AFRICA, PARTICULARLY TO SMALL ISLANDS OR ISLAND GROUPS WHICH LACK MAJOR RESOURCES. HE STATED THAT AUSTRALIA VALUES ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE COMMITTEE OF 24 AND THAT THIS IS REFLECTED IN THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE COCOS ISLANDS.

5. WILLESEE THEN ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO A GRAB-BAG OF ISSUES, CALLING FOR RESPECT OF THE RIGHTS OF ALL PARTIES

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IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND CYPRUS, PRAISING UN ACTIVITIES THERE AND WELCOMING THE NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGHPT. URGING UNIVERSALITY, HE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THE VIETNAMS WERE NOT UN MEMBERS AND HOPED THAT THIS WOULD SOON BE CHANGED. HE REMARKED THAT THERE IS A "VAST GULF" BETWEEN THE TWO KOREAS, THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS WERE EQUALLY SOVEREIGN AND SHOULD RESPECT EACH OTHER'S RIGHTS, AND THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD SUPPORT UN

MEMBERSHIP FOR EITHER OR BOTH. EMPHASIZING THE NEED FOR PEACE, HE NOTED THAT ITS INTERESTS WOULD NOT BE SERVED BY DISMANTLING USEFUL MACHINERY WITHOUT REPLACING IT WITH SOMETHING EQUALLY EFFECTIVE. HE THEN MENTIONED PREVIOUS AUSTRALIAN INITIATIVES ON THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES AND DIPLOMATIC ASYLUM. ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, HE URGED THAT NEW LAW "MAKE A REALITY OF THE COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND," CALLING FOR UNIVERSAL AGREEMENT IN THIS AREA. HE ALSO VOICED SUPPORT FOR FURTHER UN WORK IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND PRAISED INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR. IN CONCLUDING, HE LAUDED THE UN CHARTER AND CALLED FOR AN EFFORT TO LIVE UP TO ITS PRINCIPLES STATING, "WE MUST NOT FAIL THE PEOPLE WHOM WE REPRESENT AND IN WHOSE NAME OUR CHARTER WAS WRITTEN."
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